

**ROEHAMPTON GARDEN
SOCIETY**
FOUNDED 1873

**MONTHLY
BULLETIN**

January 2019

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

BULLETIN REPORT

This is my first report as editor of the bulletin. Many of you may know me as the joint chair of the shows. I have a plot on site 2 but you may see me a bit more on site 3 searching out stories for the bulletin. I have a few ideas for features in future editions but will elaborate on them another time.

We will be looking at less editions in quiet times and there will be more links to information on the website which is too wordy or has previously been printed in the bulletin. Some documents will be printed out and available in the store.

With my other hat on there is an announcement further on in the bulletin about shows for next year.

Carol Martinez – Bulletin Editor

CHAIR'S REPORT

Well, here we are at the beginning of a new year and soon a new growing season. We have several challenges for this year. We need to get the leaking asbestos roof in the store fixed as a top priority which is linked into our renewing our lease with Wandsworth

Council. Since we are expected to fund and get the work done we are negotiating a more favourable share of the rent we collect, in fact a peppercorn rent. We have a small and focused sub-committee of 3 led by Patrick Crawford who is an architect, we have legal guidance from Alan Strowger as he has a very strong legal background in leases and I am also on the team. We also had advice from Andrew Gulliford, a retired Chartered Surveyor specialising in commercial property and he has been very helpful. The sub-committee team had a positive meeting with the Property & Contract Manager from Wandsworth Council and the CEO of Enable, the charity who manage the allotments for Wandsworth. We are also fortunate in having the interest and support of Councillor Steffi Sutters and our President, Justine Greening MP. Once the lease is agreed we can move forward with our application to become a charity. So, lots to do – I am very glad that we have a committee with such useful abilities and that they are willing to donate their time to running the RGS. However, there may be skills gaps that become apparent, so I might need to ask the membership during the coming year for people with particular knowledge and skills.

Happy New Year and happy gardening.

Helen Finch, Chair

STORE REPORT

The Store reopens after its Christmas break on 6 January and potatoes have already arrived from Scotland.

We have 5 varieties to choose from this year, all at £2 per kilo (you can pick and mix):

ARRAN PILOT - first early: this was the most popular variety in the UK in the 1930's. These have white flesh with a firm waxy texture and excellent flavour. They have a short shelf life and should be eaten within 10 days of being dug up. Good for boiling and chips. Plant from the end of February.



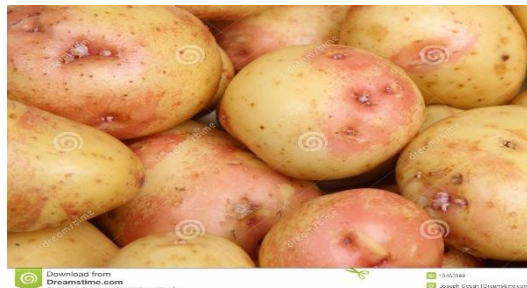
KESTREL - 2nd early: these have attractive white skins with purple eyes and well known for their taste and being consistently large. They were bred by Dr Jack Dunnett MBE who is probably the foremost potato breeder in the last 50 years and was awarded the British Potato Industry Award in 2013. Shows significant resistance to slugs. Good for boiling, mash, chips, roasting and salads. Plant early-mid April for harvesting in July/August.



CHARLOTTE - 2nd early salad potato: these are slightly waxy with yellow-cream flesh. They are excellent for boiling, hold their shape well and are delicious hot or cold. They also cope well with being left in the ground longer than they should be. Plant as for Kestrel.



KING EDWARD - Maincrop: this is one of the oldest of the UK potato varieties dating back to 1902, the same year as the coronation of King Edward VII. It has excellent taste, good keeping properties and above average disease resistance. It has creamy-white flesh which stays white when cooked. Good for boiling, roasting, baking and mash.



MARIS PIPER - Maincrop: this first appeared in 1966 and was the result of a massive potato breeding program in Cambridge by the Plant Breeding Institute. It has good resistance to eelworm, is a good all-rounder and has good storage capabilities. It is good for baking, boiling, roasting, and chips.



Maincrop potatoes should be planted in mid-late April and lifted in August for immediate use or in September/October for putting into storage.

We also have hessian potato sacks for storing your potatoes at £1.50 each.

Also available will be Red Barron and Stuttgart onions at £1 per mug (approx. 40 onion sets), Red Sun and Golden Gourmet shallots at £1.50 per mug and Cristo garlic at £1 per bulb.

Do look at the following article on Kings Seeds by Jackie. We now have lots of new varieties in store.

Gill Tamsett, Trading Secretary

KINGS SEEDS available in store

January/February – PLENTY OF CROPS CAN BE STARTED NOW. PLAN FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

- * Over 200 vegetable, herb and flower seeds from Kings in Store.
- * 20% discount.
- * Finest quality, tested for vigour & germination & great value for money.

POTATOES: Start 'chitting' tubers of early potatoes in trays in a cool, light, frost-free location.

BROAD BEANS: Sow broad beans in pots under cover in Jan but by Feb you can sow outdoors. (In store: Aquadulce Claudia, De Monica, Karmazyn, Masterpiece Green & The Sutton)

SALAD LEAF: Sow winter salads in a greenhouse or windowsill. (In Store: Corn Salad (Lambs Lettuce), Mizuna & Rocket.)

AUBERGINES: Can be sown under cover on a sunny windowsill from late January. (In store: Long Purple, Pinstripe, Jack Pot & Black Beauty.) **DON'T FORGET THE SPECIAL AUBERGINE CUP THIS YEAR**

SWEET AND CHILLI PEPPERS

Sow from mid-February in a heated propagator or sunny windowsill.

(Chillies need 21 degrees to germinate.) (In store: **Sweet**

Peppers: Kubista, Long Red Marconi, Lunch Box Mix & Mavras.

Chillies: Apache, Basket of Fire, Early Jalapeno, Habanero Orange, Hungarian Hot Wax & Trinidad Perfume)


SUMMER BRASSICAS: Sow on a windowsill to plant out in late February. (In store: Cauliflower Boris & Cabbage Caraflex, Kalibro

(Club Root Resistant), Spring Hero & Red Lodero)

SPINACH: Sow on a windowsill to plant out in late February. (In Store: Amazon, Trombone & Matador.)

PEAS: Can be sown late February (In store: Douce Provence, Early Onward, Half Pint & Kelvedon Wonder.)

TOMATOES: At the end of February sow tomatoes under cover. (In store: Blight Resistant Mountain Magic, Akron, Alicante, Black Russian, Fandango, Gardeners' Delight, Gigantomo, Golden Sunrise, Ildo, Megabyte, Shirley, Sungold & Tigerella)



Approx. 75 seeds

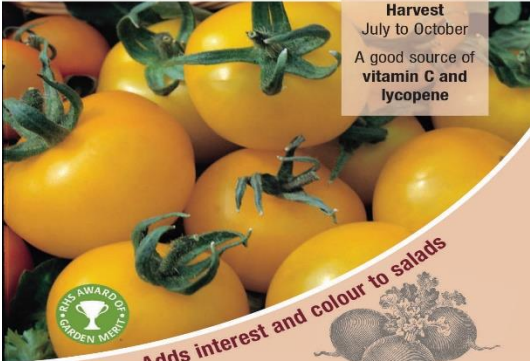
Tomato
Golden Sunrise
Some say the finest flavour

Summer cropping

Sow
January to April

Harvest
July to October

A good source of vitamin C and lycopene



AWARD WINNING
GARDEN MERIT

Adds interest and colour to salads

Grow-your-own
for freshness & flavour

KINGS SEEDS

RADISHES: Sow in cold frame or greenhouse beds. (In store: Cherry Belle, China Rose, Diana, French Breakfast, Mooli, Sparkler & White Icicle)

CELERIAC: Sow in deep modules in a heated propagator or sunny windowsill. (In store: Prinz)

LEEEKS: Sow early leeks in deep pots under cover. (In store: Musselburgh, Below Zero, Blue Solaise, & Giant Winter)

LETTUCE: Sow early lettuce and keep in cold frame or greenhouse for earlier harvest. (In store: All Year Round, Analena, Arctic King, Intred, Little Gem Cos, Mixed, Oak Leaf Navarra, Red & Green Salad Bowl, Pigale Pils & Webbs Wonderful)

MUSTARD AND CRESS: sow in a small seed tray on a warm windowsill for pickings in just a few weeks. (In store: Cress: Sprint, Fine Curled & Land & White Mustard)

FLOWERS: Sow hardy annuals for companion planting such as calendula and tagetes indoors for earlier blooms. (In store: Durango Mixed, Naughty Marietta & Starfire)

SWEET PEAS. Sow in root trainers and place on a sunny windowsill, in a cold frame or greenhouse. (Many varieties in store.)



Approx. 20 seeds


Sweet Pea
Streamers Mix
A striking bi-colour mixture

Hardy annual

Height
2.25m (7'6")

Sow
September to April

Flowers
June to September



Makes an eye-catching cut flower

Top Sweet Peas
for your garden

KINGS SEEDS

PLOT JOBS FOR THIS MONTH

Plot Jobs advice for January and February can be found on our website at <http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/category/plotjobsbymonth/>

There is a very useful information sheet on the different types of fertiliser sold in the store.

<http://www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk/growing-things/fertilisers/>

Fertiliser information is also printed and available in the store.

SHOWS UPDATE

The show committee, with the support of the main committee, has agreed that for 2019 we are going to experiment with doing something different.

Instead of having 2 big shows, one in June and another in September, we are going to have just one big show in the autumn. For the summer we would like to hold a family event on site 2 on a sunny (!) Sunday afternoon. We will run a flower show to display roses, sweet peas and pansies, along with arrangements and other seasonal flowers.

The event is still in the planning stages, but we might also include some of the summer fruit and vegetables that won't be seen otherwise, such as strawberries and asparagus.

There will be activities for children and we will ask that people bring along a dish that can be added to a buffet for everyone to share.

We hope you will support us in this decision as the staging of the

shows is very time consuming for all the volunteers involved and we hope this event will be a great social occasion.

For the autumn show we are introducing a new award – a cup for the best exhibit of a vegetable that is a bit trickier to grow than others. In the first year it will be awarded to the grower of the best aubergines. But you need to get your skates on as the seeds need to be planted this month for best results.

Carol Martinez, Joint Show Chair

Growing Aubergines

Here are Georgina O'Reilly's tips.



Many gardeners are put off growing aubergines as it is often recommended that they need a greenhouse. However, two years ago The Best in Show Vegetable in the Autumn Show were a pair of outdoor-grown aubergines. Aubergines can be started mid-January in modules or a seed tray in a propagator or airing cupboard or under glass on a sunny

windowsill in a warm room. Select the more vigorous plants and grow on initially in 3.5" pots. Bring on in the warmth and when the roots fill the pot transfer to 9" pots. Select a sunny site and warm the soil where the aubergines are to grow by covering with a cloche or membrane. Aubergines can then be planted out once the danger of frost has passed. Build a protective barrier around the plants with clear plastic or glass sheets. Water regularly and feed with high potassium liquid fertiliser (tomato fertiliser) fortnightly.

Christmas Cake Winner

In the raffle at the autumn show last year Pip Melotte won the Christmas cake which was lovingly made and generously donated by Laura Davies.



Vice President Derrick Ratcliffe presents Pip with her cake.

Bonfire Party on Site 3



The party on site 3 was a “roaring” success. Around 80 people, including a large number of children, came along to Bob Aveley’s plot at around 5pm on Saturday night. Bob and Sheila Konig worked like Trojans non-stop from 8am, to create a magical atmosphere with rows and rows of tea lights in pink glass holders placed on shelves backed by mirrors and silver foil to reflect the glow. The children were entranced by the wishing well, continually sending the bucket up and down in a secret game that no one could quite understand. The fireworks contributed by those attending were absolutely spectacular, and the bonfire had been constructed with the precision of an architect. Thanks also must go to Eva Knedlova (an unsung hero) who turned up early on Sunday to help Bob and Sheila with the clearing up.

There was also a well-attended bonfire burning on site 2 on November 5th. Thanks to Alan Smart, David Renshaw and Mitesh Patel for organising it and keeping us all safe.

Welcome to new plot-holders:

Site 2

Erica Wood returns

Serena Binnie

Sally Harvey

Annie Hardinge

Site 3

Julia Descroizilles

Nicky Johns

Dennis Chamley

Michael Prew

Zoltan Emmesz

January RECIPE

Orangey Pumpkin Bread

This always goes down a treat when I make it for the café on a Sunday morning. Either pumpkin or squash can be used.

1 large orange
75g unsalted butter
265g caster sugar
2 large eggs
250g pumpkin or squash puree
75mls water or orange juice
250g plain flour
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
½ teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground mixed spice
60g chopped walnuts (or extra raisins if you do not want to use nuts)
80g chopped raisins

1. Prepare puree by steaming pumpkin or squash with a little water until soft and then pulverise. If it is watery drain off the excess. Steam a much larger raw quantity than the 250g to get what is needed, any leftover can be frozen.
2. Heat oven to 180C/Gas 4. Grease a loaf tin 23x13cm.
3. Cut orange into wedges and remove seeds. Place orange with peel into a food processor and pulse until finely chopped.
4. Cream butter and sugar until smooth, beat in eggs one at a time. Stir in puree and water/juice. Mix in flour, bicarb, baking powder and spices. Stir in nuts and raisins. Spoon into the prepared loaf tin.

5. Bake on middle shelf for 1 hour or until skewer comes out clean.

An orange butter or cream cheese topping can finish this off nicely, but it is lovely enough plain.



Thanks to Gary Rose for putting a smile on everyone's faces with these hilarious festive signs on site 3.



NOTICES DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

***Family / Flower show – a Sunday
in June – to be confirmed.***

***Autumn Show – September -
date to be confirmed.***

***AGM – October – date to be
confirmed.***

***The September and October
dates will be confirmed in the
next few weeks and emailed out
to all.***

RHS CONTACTS

Committee Chair: Helen Finch.
Site 2 Joint Allotment Secretaries
Mariangela Renshaw & Elizabeth
Smart.
Site 3 Joint Allotment Secretaries:
Vivian Fowler & Alison Linton.
Site Manager: Shirley Gillbe.
Comments or questions for Chair
and/or Committee via website:
rgs.sw15@gmail.com

***All policies and procedures are
on our website.***

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

RGS email

As you know the email system was
changed earlier this year. Those of
you on email should all have been
receiving emails
from rgs.sw15@gmail.com. If you
have not been receiving any, then
please check your spam/junk
folders. In order to be sure to get
them in future please set
up rgs.sw15@gmail.com as a
known contact.
Or email rgs.sw15@gmail.com

RGS ADDRESS AND POST BOX

Fixed to the gate at site 2,
Roehampton Garden Society
The Pleasance Allotments
The Pleasance
London SW15 5HF
Website:

www.roehamptonallotments.co.uk

BASIC RULES FOR THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL COHESION ON OUR ALLOTMENT SITES

- Respect the rights and belongings
of other plot holders.
- No dogs without leads.
- No unsupervised children.
- Lock the gate behind you.
- Dispose of your own rubbish.
- No structures to be erected or
trees to be planted without
permission of your Site Secretary.

*If you think someone is breaking
the rules contact a committee
member or me, Helen Finch, rather
than confront another plot holder.*
Helen.finch2@btinternet.com
07736 422373

PLOT NUMBERING

Please ensure your plot is clearly
numbered and the label is not
hidden under some plants!
You can make your own; have a
look round and you will see some
lovely creative designs, or you
could buy one in slate or metal
from a garden centre. Make sure it
is large enough for the number to
be seen clearly from the side path
and it doesn't fade. You could also
paint the number onto your shed.
Failing that, we have large white
plastic ones with stick on numbers
and letters that you can collect free
in the store. These will last you for
several years.

RHS Notice Greening Grey Britain

Is there a neglected space in your community that you'd love to transform into a green oasis for people and the planet?

The RHS is offering a number of community groups expert hands-on support, plus up to £500 worth of plants and materials!

To be eligible, you should take part in the RHS Campaign for School Gardening or be a registered RHS Affiliated Society.

Apply with an intergenerational project idea, which would benefit wildlife, the planet or human wellbeing, before 28th February.

See more information in the link below:

https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/news/articles/ggb-with-communities?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=December%202019&utm_content=December%202019%20CID_d983883e239d7d07c9429964472d7e59&utm_source=marketing%20enewsletters&utm_term=Find%20out%20more

THE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION TOOL SHED

Mend and re-furbish old garden tools

www.conservationfoundation.co.uk

DISCOUNTS

Adrian Hall, East Sheen

On presentation of your RGS membership card you will receive 10% discount on horticultural goods that you take away with you, not on delivered items.

Neal's, Heathfield Road, SW18 3HR (opposite Wandsworth Prison)

Register for their loyalty card, as an RGS member by showing your membership card, giving your name, email address, post-code. A 7% retrospective discount on goods purchased is applied and can be redeemed at the time of the next purchase (like a Nectar card). The amount of discount is recorded as 'points' on the card and shown on each till receipt. £5.00 worth of points is put on your card as a thank you when you register. If you are over 50, and a loyalty card member, you will receive 10% discount on Wednesdays.

AUSTIN MOWERS

Repairs and sells reconditioned mowers and sharpens shears.

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SECURITY

If you see someone trespassing or causing damage on the Sites, or in an emergency phone 999 or text phone 18000.

NEW DAWN GARDENS

Artan Deliallisi, one of our plot holders, offers regular or casual maintenance for gardens. He will repair or build fences, gates, sheds, paving, walls and arches. 07411 288485

artandeliallisi@gmail.com

MANTRA LANDSCAPES

Grounds maintenance specialists'

www.mantralandscapes.com

Alexander Barrington Thompson-Byer. 07985 463 283

CAPITAL GROWTH

Capital Growth is the largest food growing network in London. It was set up initially as a partnership initiative between London Food Link, the Mayor of London, and the Local Food Fund and helped create 2012 new community food-growing spaces across London by the end of 2012.

You may be interested in their courses and voluntary work opportunities. See what they are doing and sign up for their newsletter at

www.capitalgrowth.org

VOLUNTEER GARDENERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help in the large and beautiful gardens at Mount Court which is a retirement home in Weimar Road, Putney SW15 1SJ. If you are interested, please phone Maggie on 07549 279 215.

The store is open on Sunday mornings between 10 -12.00 noon. Café, serving teas, coffee and homemade cake

NEXT BULLETIN

March 2019. Editor Carol Martinez. Email stories and photos to carolmartine@hotmail.co.uk by end of February.

Recipe suggestions always welcome.